



Kiwaniis[®]

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT

Happy New Year, fellow Pennsylvania Kiwanians!

Today is the start of a New (Kiwaniis) Year for the Pennsylvania District. Words alone cannot express how honored I am to serve as your Governor this year. Thank you for your trust and faith in me. I will try to earn it throughout the year ahead.

It is time to “Rise and Shine for the Kids” in 2024-25! I picked that theme because I feel that it is the dawn of a new day for our District. And, I believe it will be a sunny one. For the first time in its 109 year history, Kiwanis International is holding its convention in the Pennsylvania District, from June 25-28, 2025 in “The City of Bridges”, Pittsburgh, Pa. We are thrilled with this opportunity, and look forward to warmly welcome Kiwanians from around the globe. KI has set a registration goal of 2,130 members and their guests. If achieved, that attendance will surpass each of the last two conventions in Minneapolis and Denver. Our District has a goal of 100 attendees. We are confident that we can not only achieve, but exceed that number. Our “Keystone Committee” led by Division 2 Trustee Shawn Smith, has been meeting monthly to help plan and support convention operations in Pittsburgh. I would like to commend that committee for their hard work.

Another “ray of sunshine” is our Leadership Team of dedicated and talented Trustees and Lt. Governors. 5 of the 7 District Regional Trustees were newly-elected this past year. And we managed to fill 15 out of 18 Lt. Governor positions. We are working on filling the remaining positions by the end of December. I have scheduled monthly Leadership Team Meetings to share information and build a strong esprit de corps as district leaders. Our first meeting will be held this evening on Zoom.

And nothing exemplifies the dawn of a new day than the birth of a child. My Governor’s Project in 2024-25 is “Bucks for Babies.” Our District has formed a strong partnership with the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), which provides first-time moms with individualized nursing and case management services from pregnancy up until the child’s 2nd birthday. Money donated to my project will be used to purchase kits with infant hygiene and safety supplies to be distributed to moms through the NFP or other neonatal health organizations. I would ask that clubs please consider donating to the project at upcoming Fall Regional Meetings.

I am looking forward to attending those Regional meetings, beginning this Saturday, October 5 in Meadville, Region 1. I then travel out to Louisville, Kentucky to assist with a Governor’s Project to open 3 new Kiwanis Clubs in that District. This will be good

experience for me to achieve my goal of opening 6 new clubs this year in the Pennsylvania District. On my way home, I will be stopping off in Scottsdale for the Region 2 Fall Meeting. I will enjoy attending your Regional Fall Meetings throughout October and November. As well as attending any club anniversaries and special events throughout my year as your Governor. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please do not hesitate to ask!

For the first time since 2019, we will be having an IN PERSON Mid-Year Conference, on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, Pa. A Planning Committee has been formed, and will be considering programs, speakers, and a social activity on Saturday night. Stay tuned for updates and announcements.

I think you will agree that regrettably, Kiwanis is one of the “best kept secrets” in many communities. Especially those where we are building a new club! One of my goals in the year ahead is to increase public awareness of Kiwanis, and the good that we do for children around the world. Service Leadership Programs are shining stars in the Kiwanis universe. We need to grow and nurture them. They are the future of Kiwanis. I have a goal of our District chartering 5 new SLP’s in 2024-25. I have every confidence that we will not just meet, but exceed that goal.

The membership initiative of KI in the year ahead is to “Build, Nurture and Retain.” We must **build** new Kiwanis Clubs in communities that need them. Each club needs to grow, **nurture** and **retain** their membership. Our District Membership Coordinator Mike Coolbaugh and your club membership chairs will support your efforts in every way possible.

Later today, at my first Leadership Team Meeting, I will be revealing a new **Membership Contest** that involves a healthy rivalry between those who favor either WaWa or Sheetz convenience stores. Contest details will be posted on the District website tomorrow. Check it out!

My blogs will be published on a monthly basis, in the first bi-weekly email of the month. My first blog will be posted next Monday, October 7. If you have any topics you would like me to address, just contact me at 610-428-1427 or tcharp70@gmail.com.

I look forward to a year of growth and prosperity for the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International. With your help, we WILL “Rise and Shine for the Kids!”

Best wishes,
Governor Tom
Pennsylvania District Governor

